



**Senate Budget & Tax Committee
March 25, 2021**

**House Bill 940
Gaming - Regulation of Fantasy Gaming Competitions and Implementation of
Sports Wagering**

Letter of Information

NCADD-Maryland offers this letter of information regarding House Bill 940. Throughout Maryland's continual expansion of legalized gambling, NCADD-Maryland has worked with the General Assembly to ensure measures have been put into place to prevent and treat problem gambling. With the passage of the ballot measure in November of 2020 to allow sports betting, we want to express gratitude for the inclusion in this implementation bill the expansion of the uses of the Problem Gambling Fund to include treatment and prevention programs aimed at helping people who develop issues with sports wagering.

We support the amendment added to HB 940 that directs additional funds to the Problem Gambling Fund. We would be supportive of an additional clarifying amendment specifying that the funds be used to develop and implement free or reduced cost problem gambling treatment and prevention programs targeted at individuals with problem gambling issues related to sports wagering, participation in fantasy competitions, and other forms of wagering, whether legal or illegal, conducted in the state or through online means.

In addition, NCADD-Maryland supports specific elements offered by our partners at the Maryland Center of Excellence on Problem Gambling. We ask that the Senate consider amending the bill to make the establishment of a voluntary exclusion list mandatory. This is a strategy that has proven effective throughout the country, including in Maryland's casinos.

In expanding the opportunity for gambling, Maryland must ensure it is investing properly in problem gambling education and prevention efforts along with treatment services to address gambling-related disorders.

The Maryland Affiliate of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD-Maryland) is a statewide organization that works to influence public and private policies on addiction, treatment, and recovery, reduce the stigma associated with the disease, and improve the understanding of addictions and the recovery process. We advocate for and with individuals and families who are affected by alcoholism and drug addiction.